



GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

August 2, 2006

Dear California Congressional Delegation Member,

As you know, California has endured a record-setting heat wave in the last month that caused severe damage and tragedy to our state's agriculture industry.

There has been significant livestock, poultry and crop loss and damage due to fourteen days of temperatures in excess of 100 degrees, reaching record highs for both day and nighttime temperatures. In particular, the dairy industry estimates as many as 2 percent (or 16,500) of the dairy cows in the San Joaquin Valley alone died during this heat wave. Additionally, milk production is reported to be down by as much as 15 to 25 percent.

These losses are devastating to many businesses and to the economy of the central valley and will only increase. California produces 20 percent of the milk consumed in the nation. Preliminary estimates indicate that there may also be significant losses in some California fruit, nut and vegetable crops.

On August 1, 2006, I requested that Secretary Johanns issue a disaster designation which will make financial assistance from the federal government immediately available to our producers who have suffered losses. I am asking your assistance to encourage the United States Department of Agriculture to action this request without waiting for final damage estimates to be completed.

Additionally, following the Gulf Coast Hurricanes of 2005, Congress appropriated funds for crop and livestock indemnity programs to farmers and ranchers who suffered significant losses as a result of the hurricanes. I am requesting that Congress appropriate similar funds under the existing crop and livestock indemnity programs as developed in Section 32 of the Agriculture Adjustment Act of 1935 to aid our state's farmers and ranchers who suffered tremendous loss as a result of the recent heat wave. Finally, I request your help in obtaining assistance on behalf of California's farmers and ranchers to ensure that adequate funding is available for the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program.

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The summer has just begun and the potential for similar heat waves is high. I look forward to working with you on this issue. Any assistance and correspondence that you can provide to the United States Department of Agriculture is greatly appreciated and will further underscore the magnitude of this disaster.

Thank you for your consideration on this vital matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arnold Schwarzenegger", written over the printed name.

cc: The Honorable William H. Frist
The Honorable Harry Reid
The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Honorable Thad Cochran
The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
The Honorable Jerry Lewis
The Honorable David Obey
The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
The Honorable Tom Harkin
The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
The Honorable Collin Peterson